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PATENT
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: ANTONIO BRANCO ET AL-1 (PCT)
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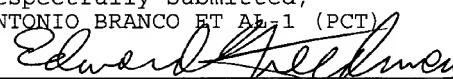
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicants are enclosing Form PTO-1449 disclosing the references cited in the International Search Report, copy enclosed. As it is believed that copies of the references cited in the International Search Report were forwarded by the International Office, we are not enclosing copies of these references. Enclosed references DE 41 36 460 A1 and DE 36 43 073 A1 were discussed in the specification on page 2, last paragraph. It is respectfully requested that the foregoing Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) be incorporated into the official file of the present patent application.

Respectfully submitted,
ANTONIO BRANCO ET AL-1 (PCT)


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Enclosures: Form PTO-1449, copy of International Search Report and two references

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I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10, on the date indicated above, and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.


Lisa L. Vulpis